

Jewel Cave National Monument 11149 U.S Highway 16 Bldg B12 Custer. SD 57730

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Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Jewel Cave National Monument Announces Park Closure on Monday, December 24, 2007 Tuesday, December 25, 2007, and Tuesday, January 1, 2008.

Superintendent Todd Suess has announced that the Visitor Center and cave tours at Jewel Cave National Monument will be closed on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, 2007.

The Visitor Center, cave tours, and park grounds will reopen on Wednesday, December 26, 2007 and be open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, except for Tuesday, January 1, 2008. The following cave programs will be available each day: Scenic Tours will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; Discovery Talks will be conducted at 9:05 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 3:45 p.m.

The *Scenic Tour* provides an opportunity to view the variety of beautiful, colorful, and rare cave formations for which Jewel Cave is famous. This ½ mile tour is moderately strenuous, following a paved, lighted trail with over 700 stairs and lasting approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes. The *Discovery Talk* is a 20 minute introduction to the cultural and natural history of Jewel Cave. This wheelchair accessible program is conducted in one large room of the cave. The cave temperature is 49°F. A light coat or sweater and sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Both programs enter and leave the cave by elevator from the Visitor Center.

For more information or to make reservations, please contact Jewel Cave National Monument at 605-673-2061 or visit www.nps.gov/jeca.

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